

SECRET

Tonight, E and Polly went to dinner at Sammy Hood's, and I dined with Ethel Fowler.

September 26, 1961 - Tuesday

Cooler today. Motored to the Department with Gladys Schukraft, and breakfasted in the cafeteria. Spent an hour in Chip Bohlen's excellent company, talking of Berlin. Next, Ivan White discussed West Indian affairs with me, in the light of the failure of the Federation plebiscite in Jamaica. Poor Ivan has recently had his gall bladder removed, and looks strained and peaked.

Went to see Allen Dulles at CIA. He told me ~~that~~ the President had decided to replace him with John McCone, who would probably accept the position. Allen and John are flying together to Newport tomorrow morning to meet the President on this subject.

Allen said that after ten years of service in the CIA, his health at the age of ⁶⁸ was as good as it has ever been. During that period, he has never missed a day because of illness, although attacks of gout have incommoded him.

His intention is to stay on as long as necessary to train his successor, then to do some writing, and eventually to return to his old law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, in New York, as counsel. He is a rare man.

Sumner Welles died yesterday. He was 69. I ~~always~~ always liked him. He had brilliant talents; his career was destroyed, at its most useful and promising point, by the vile machinations of Bill Bullitt.

E and I lunched at the Blisses. Robert, at 86, became afflicted by a persistent cough. An X-ray examination indicated that it was caused by a lung tumor. Consequently, he has been bombarded with deep X-rays, and the tumor seems to have diminished. Such treatment is debilitating, and even nauseating. He is still in bed, and did not come down for lunch.

~~SECRET~~

Mildred's guests were the ~~Cassins~~, the Portuguese Ambassador, Pereira, Alice Longworth, Alice and Dean Acheson, Henry Brandon, Felix Frankfurter, and ourselves. The talk was tip top.

I spent an hour with Bill Tyler and Bill Burdett this afternoon. Also attended to chores connected with the Embassy in London.

Went to call on Chester Bowles; his Undersecretary's crown has rested uneasily on his head since the reports that the President had requested his resignation without success have thus far been uncontradicted.

Kennedy's speech yesterday has been widely acclaimed. What effect it may have on the "non-aligned" nations remains to be seen. I suppose they will be as craven as usual vis-a-vis the Soviets. He paid tribute to the fine qualities of Hammarskjold, whose death has made the efficient functioning of the United Nations dubious.

Jackie Kennedy has started another child--so rumor has it. Oddly enough, the President is said to have first disclosed the news to Richard Nixon.

I spent an hour or more with Findley Burns, an always pleasurable event. We talked, as who does not in this Department, of Berlin. Findley is at the National War College; we hope he will be assigned to London next June.

Our views on Berlin largely coincide. With the forcible separation of the two sectors unchallenged physically by the West, the already great advantages of the Soviets in the enclave are now overwhelming. No deal designed to maintain the uneasy status quo seems possible, unless the West makes intolerable concessions, or unless the Soviets are so convinced of our readiness to resort to nuclear war that they will not, for the time being, push us to extreme action. But no matter how the status quo might be continued, our enemy will still be able to harass and threaten us by the creation of fresh incidents whenever he, or the GDR, wishes to

DECLASSIFIED

do so. To surrender our position in Berlin would be an acknowledgment of our dishonor, and would shatter our prestige everywhere. ~~Our~~ Concessions of most interest to the Soviets would be those we cannot and should not make.

The refusal, for example, to the West German Army of the use of tactical nuclear weapons would be a discrimination against a member of NATO which might well cause the Federal Republic to withdraw from that organization, and would cause the loss of NATO's single largest military force.

To acknowledge the sovereignty of the East German Republic would be a capitulation with far-reaching consequences; it would undoubtedly imperil the attachment of West Germany to her present alliances. It is one thing to consider reunification unlikely, and in the view of many western peoples, undesirable, but to proclaim this publicly is another matter. On the part of the United States, such a policy would require us to swallow an almost lethal dose of vinegar, and who would thereafter trust our pronouncements of principle?

What, if any, alternative is there to maintaining the status quo, or something close to it? For years, I have been intrigued by the idea of internationalizing the whole Berlin enclave, if another solution, satisfactory to us, were not agreed upon. To move the capital seat of the United Nations to Berlin, and internationalize the two sectors of the city offers intriguing possibilities. There are evident dangers, objections, and perhaps insuperable obstacles, to doing so, but this proposition should be searchingly examined.

September 27, 1961 - Wednesday

Sunny day, temperature about 70°. Went to the Department with Miss Schu. Talked to Gerry Smith about Berlin. He is making, as a consultant, a special study, for the Secretary, of European security; Berlin; economic warfare, and

DECLASSIFIED